

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 /033 W
-----160630Z 043662 /12

R 151837Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2784
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER CANADIAN CONSULATES

UNCLAS OTTAWA 01552

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ECON, CA
SUBJECT: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES TO 7.9 PERCENT IN
FEBRUARY

1. STATISTICS CANADA RELEASED ON MARCH 15 FEBRUARY
LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES, SHOWING SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ROSE TO 7.9 PERCENT FROM 7.5 IN
JANUARY. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED EMPLOYMENT LEVEL INCREASED
25,000 TO 9,656,000, BUT UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL INCREASED
49,000 TO 829,000.

2. BY PROVINCE, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED EMPLOYMENT LEVEL
INCREASED IN NEWFOUNDLAND (UP 4,000), PRINCE EDWARD
ISLAND (UP 1,000), ALBERTA (UP 13,000), AND BRITISH
COLUMBIA (UP 5,000). LEVEL DECREASED IN NEW BRUNSWICK
(DOWN 3,000), QUEBEC (DOWN 3,000), ONTARIO (DOWN 4,000)
AND MANITOBA (DOWN 3,000).

3. BY PROVINCE, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL
INCREASED IN NEWFOUNDLAND (UP 4,000), PRINCE EDWARD
ISLAND (UP 1,000), NOVA SCOTIA (UP 4,000), QUEBEC (UP
19,000) ONTARIO (UP 27,000), AND MANITOBA (UP 4,000).
LEVEL DECREASED IN NEW BRUNSWICK (DOWN 1,000), SASKATCHEWAN
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(DOWN 1,000), ALBERTA (DOWN 2,000) AND BRITISH COLUMBIA
(DOWN 7,000).

4. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY PROVINCE
IN FEBRUARY WAS: NEWFOUNDLAND, 15.1 PERCENT; PRINCE
EDWARD ISLAND, 9.0; NOVA SCOTIA, 11.0 PERCENT; QUEBEC,
9.7 PERCENT; ONTARIO, 6.8 PERCENT; MANITOBA, 6.0 PERCENT;

NEW BRUNSWICK, 13.0 PERCENT, SASKATCHEWAN, 3.7 PERCENT;
ALBERTA, 4.0 PERCENT; AND BRITISH COLUMBIA, 8.2 PERCENT.

5. UNADJUSTED EMPLOYMENT LEVEL IN FEBRUARY WAS 9,290,000
COMPARED TO 9,178,000 YEAR AGO. UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL WAS
932,000 COMPARED TO 800,000 IN FEBRUARY 1976, AND
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 9.1 PERCENT COMPARED TO 8.0 IN
SAME MONTH YEAR AGO.

6. COMMENT: RADIO COMMENTATORS REPORTING ON FEBRUARY
UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES CLAIMED RATE WAS HIGHEST SINCE
STATCAN AND PREDECESSOR AGENCY BEGAN COMPREHENSIVE
REPORTING ON LABOR FORCE OVER 20 YEARS AGO. OPPOSITION
PARTIES CAN BE EXPECTED USE UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES TO
CRITICIZE GOC ECONOMIC POLICIES AND PUSH FOR STIMULATIVE
MEASURES IN MACDONALD'S MARCH 31 BUDGET.

7. RISE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TO NEARLY 8 PERCENT COMES
AS NO SURPRISE TO DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION
OFFICIALS. ADM FOR MANPOWER CAMPBELL RECENTLY TOLD
LABATT THAT MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION MINISTER CULLEN
IS URGING LARGER ALLOCATION FOR JOB CREATION PROGRAMS
IN FY77-78 THAN C\$250 MILLION NOW ENVISAGED AND HOPES
TO CONVINCE CABINET COLLEAGUES THAT STIMULATIVE MEASURES
IN UPCOMING BUDGET ARE ESSENTIAL IF UNEMPLOYMENT IS
TO BE REDUCED. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, UNEMPLOYMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA01552
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770089-0796
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770356/aaaabxdb.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 29f980b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3097955
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES TO 7.9 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY
TAGS: ELAB, ECON, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/29f980b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009